

Message

From: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) [ran2@cdc.gov]
Sent: 10/29/2017 6:47:55 PM
To: Werner, Lora [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=921f9f156035403fa605c142a287cc1a-Lwerne02]
CC: Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) [ibd7@cdc.gov]; Markiewicz, Karl [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a9af7eaacbc41d8a469eb1f11183ad6-Kmarkiew]
Subject: RE: Abstract and Website Info Ames Warehouse

Here is the text of the email either Charles or I can send to the DTHHS clearance chain including our ADC. Please look especially close at what I did with the odors.

EPA Region 3 wants to provide a description of the health concerns when they post their environmental data on the website. They have asked ATSDR 3 to provide language for that description. DTHHS/ERP and ATSDR 3 has been discussing language with EPA 3 and they may post something - without attribution to CDC/ATSDR - in order to share their data quickly. They have indicated they will modify their webpage if we would like. Below my signature is a consensus version of the language we developed. Please provide any comments as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Rich Nickle
ATSDR Emergency Response

Beginning shortly after the fire started on October 21st, EPA and the State have been monitoring environmental conditions around the Ames Warehouse fire at Camden and Broadway in Parkersburg. Additional air monitoring was conducted by the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) working for Wood County authorities beginning the Monday after the fire started. Because information on the contents of the warehouse has not been certain, this air monitoring has focused on particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10) and less than 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5) to track the smoke from the fire. These particulates are small enough to be breathed deep into the lungs and are usually a good indicator of potential health issues. Additional measurements have been made of common breakdown products of plastics and carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a measurement that can be used to evaluate any fire.

The primary concern for health officials has been "spikes" of both PM10 and PM2.5. These spikes have been above 24 hour air quality standards for open air for brief periods of time during the day or night. Many of the spikes have occurred after midnight until just before dawn, usually lasting for periods of less than an hour up to about 4 hours. Then the concentrations dropped below the air standards. Because of wind conditions and the hilly nature of the ground around the warehouse, it is not known how long these higher concentrations have lasted in any given area away from the sampling locations. Local authorities in consultation with state and federal public health and environmental officials made the recommendations to protect public health, including advice on sheltering in their homes and avoiding the smoke. West Virginia officials consulted frequently with their counterparts in Ohio to make sure everyone in the area possibly affected by the smoke from the fire were made aware of the recommendations to protect themselves.

Smoke from any fire irritates the lungs, nose, and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory and cardiac conditions are more sensitive to the effects of the smoke from this fire. From what we have seen in the environmental data so far, once exposure to the smoke from this fire has stopped, any symptoms

should subside fairly quickly. If any individual has symptoms that persist, they should consult first with their personal doctors because your doctor knows your personal health better than anyone else. Other professionals through the local hospitals, regional poison control centers, and public health agencies are available to your doctor to help them understand the effects of the smoke in order to help you.

There have been strong plastics odors as well as typical combustion odors in areas where the smoke has been. Information on what would be causing these odors is not known. The public health implications what is causing these odors cannot be determined until additional information is available. However, strong odors in air can cause symptoms in people. Some people are more sensitive to environmental odors than others. In general, as the smells from the smoke increase, more people will have symptoms. Symptoms from odors vary based on your personal sensitivity to the odor. Young children, the elderly, and pregnant women may be more sensitive to odors than other people. In general, the most common symptoms from odors are headaches; nasal congestion; eye, nose, and throat irritation; nausea, and cough. People more sensitive to odors can experience chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, heart palpitations, nausea, drowsiness, and mental depression. These symptoms generally occur at the time of exposure and tend to subside quickly when the odors go away. The intensity of these symptoms depend on the concentration of the odor in air, how often you smell it, and how long you smell it. Avoiding the smoke and the odors when you can should reduce your reaction. You can learn more about odors and their health effects at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/odors/index.html>

West Virginia Health and Ohio Health initiated a process called syndromic surveillance through the local hospitals. Syndromic surveillance is a means of tracking signs and symptoms of exposure to smoke. From what we have learned so far, people in the areas potentially affected by the smoke have done well protecting themselves following the advice from local officials. The need for additional studies is being considered. If it is determined that there is a need or benefit for additional studies, state and federal health agencies will work through local authorities to conduct those studies. When additional information on the contents of the warehouse and the air and water quality becomes available, a better appreciation of the potential health effects of this fire can be made. This additional information should help with the decision for any additional studies.

The health and environmental professionals working on this fire will continue to work together until we are confident that the community concerns are addressed.

From: Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov)

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 2:44 PM

To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov>

Cc: Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ibd7@cdc.gov>; Markiewicz, Karl (EPA) (CDC epa.gov) <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Abstract and Website Info Ames Warehouse

Sounds good by me - That should work.

Let me know what version you would like me to run through state local health folks and I can coordinate that aspect.

Will discuss with EPA, Lora

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 29, 2017, at 2:28 PM, Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov> wrote:

Let me do this. I will add your thing about odors and change the date. Then I'll send it to our clearance chain. I doubt we will have any final say before tomorrow COB at best, but at least they will get it first thing in the AM. We probably also need to run it through WVDOH and ODH as well as Wood County Health.

What EPA needs to do in the meantime using the combination of the two versions without attribution (maybe indicate it is a preliminary discussion) for their own purposes is their decision. We can ask them to update their website when we cross the i's and dot the t's. Would that work for everyone?

From: Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov>
Cc: Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ibd7@cdc.gov>; Markiewicz, Karl (EPA) (CDC epa.gov) <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Abstract and Website Info Ames Warehouse

I like yours though!! But does yours need to more clearance to share though?

And AQI part of EPA blurb is a placeholder from our review of prior instantaneous readings. Need to confirm with new spreadsheet what would be accurate to say. I am finally at a desktop. Trying to decipher. Couple other tweaks to their write up also needed I think.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 29, 2017, at 1:55 PM, Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov> wrote:

I'm ok with the language. I think it overstates the degree of the threat due to the transient nature of the spikes, but that may not be a bad thing.

From: Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 1:35 PM
To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov>; Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ibd7@cdc.gov>; Markiewicz, Karl (EPA) (CDC epa.gov) <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Abstract and Website Info Ames Warehouse

I am trying to revive my access to oscnet right now.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duffy, Jessica" <Duffy.Jessica@epa.gov>
Date: October 29, 2017 at 1:21:22 PM EDT
To: "schafer, joan" <schafer.joan@epa.gov>

"Werner, Lora" <Werner.Lora@epa.gov>
Cc: "Burns, Francis" <Burns.Fran@epa.gov>,
"Lindsey, Deborah" <Lindsey.Deborah@epa.gov>, "Wenning,
Stephanie" <Wenning.Stephannie@epa.gov>,
"Linden, Melissa" <linden.melissa@epa.gov>,
"Wagner, Christine" <Wagner.Christine@epa.gov>, "Gross, Bonnie" <Gross.bonnie@epa.gov>

Subject: Abstract and Website Info

Joan,
I've attached the narrative we worked on together for the website abstract. Please remember to note that the data associated with ASPECT imagery, AreaRae monitoring, and VOC sampling with summa canisters is planning to be presented at a later date.

The link to the website is
response.epa.gov/AmesWarehouseFire

Please remind HQ folks that they will need to be logged into response.epa.gov to access this site since it is set to private. They can email ERT.Support@epa.gov or call 1-800-999-6990 to get an account set up. ERT Support is staffed 24-hrs a day, but keep in mind, they are currently probably busy with hurricane response stuff so they may not answer immediately.

Lora,
Please note that the section you drafted for us at the end of the abstract has changed a bit. Let us know if you have any issues with the changes that were made.

Thank you,
Jessica Duffy
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